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CORPUS CHRISTI GOES AHEAD WITH CLOUD-SEEDING

The state's Center for Innovative Technology got two boosts Tuesday - the go-ahead from a number of officials to get summer construction underway as scheduled and the announcement of a prestigious new tenant.

A group called SPC, which stands for the Software Productivity Consortium, will set up shop in the new CIT. Gov. Charles Robb and Sen. John Warner, R-Va., made the announcement -- and added the consortium will bring at least 175 jobs to the center.

And CIT President Robert Pry said a Tuesday morning meeting between Robb, Loudoun and Fairfax County officials and developers cleared final construction hurdles. Pry declined to give details.

SPC is comprised of 13 of the nation's leading aerospace corporations. Its purpose is to develop state-of-the-art computer software and software development techniques to help give the United States long-term superiority in the field.

Most of the technology developed by the private sector venture will serve the defense and intelligence community.

Scott Eubanks, director of the state department of economic development, said the CIT's proximity to the CIA and the Department of Defense was a big factor in landing the contract. The CIT will be located near Dulles Airport.

The companies in the consortium include Boeing, GTE, General Dynamics, E-Systems, Lockheed, Ford Aerospace, Martin Marietta, McDonnell-Douglas, Northrup, Rockwell, Science Applications International Corp., TRW, and United Technologies.

SPC will initially create more than 175 jobs, but significant growth is anticipated in the future.